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SERIAL No. 10/820007



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Brian E. Lundrigan**

Serial No: **10/820007**

Filed: **April 8, 2004**

Title: **WYSE Mid-Span Winch Kit**

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination in the above referenced application, please amend the application by deleting the first full paragraph on page 5 of the Specification and substituting the following paragraph:

Referring now to the drawings in greater detail, **Fig. 1** shows a top view of the WYSE Mid-Span winch kit, according to one example of the present invention. A mounting plate **1** includes a means for a winch to be securely attached to it. The example of **Fig. 1** shows four possible holes **2** in mounting plate **1** which may receive bolts used to attach the winch to mounting plate **1**[, or attached to the winch itself depending on the type of winch used on the system]. The rear end of a flex plate **3** may also be attached to mounting plate **1**, or attached to the winch itself depending on the type of winch used on the system. The [support] flex plate **3** is made from a high tension flexible material, for example steel. The example of **Fig. 1** shows two holes **4** in flex plate **3** which receive bolts used to securely attach flex plate **3** to mounting plate **1**. When a winch is mounted, it is attached to mounting plate **1**, with the cable [drum] resting on flex plate **3**. The high tension flexible nature of flex plate **3** allows the cable drum to move in response to movements of the cable drum, thus applying constant pressure against the cable drum and ensuring a consistent spooling pattern even during times of slack cable operation.

While Fig. 1 indicates bolts used to attach both the winch and flex plate 3 to mounting plate 1, other means of making these secure attachments may be used as well. Also, cut-outs may be employed to reduce the weight of mounting plate 1.

Prior to examination in the above referenced application, please amend the application by deleting the second full paragraph on page 7 of the Specification and substituting the following paragraph:

In order to use the WYSE mid-span mounting kit, [the user mounts] a winch mounts to mounting plate 1. If the winch is electrically operated, the user locates and connects a source of electrical power to the winch, via electrical control box. The user attaches the WYSE mid-span mounting kit to an object via shackle 14[. After] after locating a structurally sound point, [the] The user then extends the winch cable 12[. The winch] which passes through cable guide 10 and attaches it to a separate sound point. After checking that all connections are secure, the user engages the power, causing the winch to retract cable 12 onto the winch drum, thereby drawing the objects closer together. Flex plate 3 maintains constant pressure against the cable. Guide plate 8 also maintains the unit in a position of desired orientation during operation, in which case hinged section 8 may be in an extended position[.] When the user no longer requires the use of the winch, the user

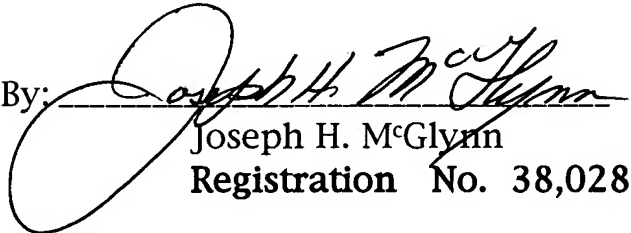
Prior to examination in the above referenced application, please amend the application by deleting the first paragraph on page 8 (lines 1 - 3) of the Specification and substituting the following paragraph:

retracts cable 12, and folds guide plate [2] 8 to approximately a 90 degree (vertical) position to assume a more compact shape for storage.

The changes noted above consist of merely the correction of typographical errors, and no New Matter has been entered by this amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,
Patent & Trademark Services, Inc.™

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